

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 7-27 in order better to define the invention intended to be claimed.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize from a reading of Applicants' specification that the principles of the invention are not limited in the manner asserted in the rejection.

For example, new Claim 7 recites that the friction material has a first layer and a second layer, that at the first immersing step a first binding agent is immersed into the first layer and that at a second immersing step a second binding agent is immersed into the second layer. See Applicants' specification, page 2, line 4 to page 3, line 11, for example. By virtue of the invention, a detriment of one binding agent can be compensated by another binding agent. For example, weakness of a binding agent that provides a desired coefficient of friction can be suppressed by another binding agent.

As pointed out on page 13 of the specification, at lines 12-14, the examples given in the specification are not intended to limit the invention. The advantages of the dual layer concept of the invention are described in the specification on page 15, lines 1-17; page 16, line 23 to page 17, line 3; and page 18, line 22 to page 19, line 9. From a reading of Applicants' specification, it would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the principles of the invention can be applied to binding agents other than phenol resin and silicon resin without undue experimentation.

It is apparent that the claims now presented are not intended to be interpreted under § 112, sixth paragraph, and that Applicants are entitled to a reasonable range of equivalents with the first and second binding agents.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome by avoiding use of the word "type".

The claims now presented recite inventions that are not anticipated by JP 59-080539, and that would not have been obvious from the prior art.

As pointed out earlier, independent Claim 7 recites a method wherein friction material has a first layer and a second layer and wherein at a first immersing step a first binding agent is immersed into the first layer and at a second immersing step a second binding agent is immersed

into the second layer. JP 59-080539 does not teach or suggest this invention. Accordingly, Claim 7 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

Independent Claim 14 recites a first immersing step of immersing first binding agent comprising phenol resin into a paper body and a second immersing step of immersing second binding agent comprising silicon resin into the paper body after the first immersing step, and a heating and curing step of heating and curing the paper body into which the first and second binding agents were immersed. JP 59-080539 does not teach or suggest this method. More particularly, the reference does not teach or suggest the invention recited in dependent Claims 16 and 17 involving first and second layers in the first and second immersing steps, respectively.

New independent Claim 18 recites a method for manufacturing a friction plate, comprising: providing a body and a core plate to which a first side of the body is to be secured; applying a first binding agent to said one side of the body to impregnate a first layer of said body with said first binding agent; applying a second binding agent to a second side of the body to impregnate a second layer of the body with said second binding agent; and securing the first side of the body to the core plate and

leaving the second side of the body exposed as a frictional engagement surface. The prior art does not teach or suggest this invention. Accordingly, Claim 18 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

New independent Claim 26 recites a method for manufacturing a wet friction material including a body having a front side and a reverse side, comprising: applying a first binding agent to the reverse side of the body to impregnate a first layer of the body with the first binding agent; and applying a second binding agent to the front side of the body to impregnate a second layer of the body with the second binding agent, wherein the first and second binding agents are selected so that the second binding agent provides a desired coefficient of friction and the first binding agent suppresses weakness of the second binding agent while maintaining elasticity of the second binding agent. The prior art does not teach or suggest the invention of this claim. Accordingly Claim 26 and dependent Claim 27 should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

A check for \$102.00 is attached in payment of the required fee for additional claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 12, 2002